

1. What was / has been your occupation before entering politics? I am the senior economist at the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). Before studying economics I was in the Naval Reserves for 14 years.

2. Do you live in the riding and, if so, how long has it been your home?

I live just next door in Ottawa Centre. We chose to make Ottawa our home 7 years ago.

3. What has been your main involvement with your community outside of work (volunteer activities, etc.)?

I volunteer with environmental and labour groups, and this spring my family and I volunteered with the sandbagging effort along the berm in Britannia Bay.

4. In your life what event, or book, or speech, or song or even TV show has made the biggest impression on you and your political thinking? Why?

My core values and political thinking were largely shaped by discussions around the kitchen table with my parents and grandparents as I was growing up in rural Saskatchewan. My grandmother and I would watch "Front Page Challenge" together and discuss how current events and government decisions were affecting our community. My mother, a nurse, would discuss the impact of poverty on the health of her patients. My father and grandfather would talk about how interest rates and exchange rates affected our small family farm. I learned to question what I heard on TV and to consider issues from many viewpoints.

5. What previous politician, (alive or dead, but not currently in parliament) is a role model for you?

Jack Layton is an inspiration to so many people in Canada. Jack was a person of great integrity who dedicated his career to fighting for programs and policies that would improve the lives of ordinary Canadians, not just the wealthy elites. Jack is someone who never served in cabinet, yet he knew how to get things done and make a real difference in the lives of Canadians.

6. What policy in your party's platform do you think matters most to the people in your riding?

The two biggest concerns I hear from people at the door are about affordability and climate action. The cost of housing, food, energy, and water are all increasing faster than wages or pensions. At the same time, we need to take drastic action to lower our reliance on fossil fuels.

Our platform proposes addressing climate action in a way that makes life more affordable for people and creates jobs, by investing in electrifying public transit and making it more affordable, and also by retrofitting homes and buildings to lower energy costs.

7. Recent polls suggest many Canadians are disillusioned with politics. If elected, what would you do to address those concerns?

I have heard concerns from voters on the doorstep about how politicians make great promises during elections, but don't follow through on these promises. What I have said in response is that I will always be honest about what I'm proposing and what the impact will be for Ottawa West-Nepean. I have also pointed out that the NDP has a history of putting regular people first, instead of bending to the wishes of the well-connected and wealthy few. And when I'm elected, I commit to following through on my promises to make life better for residents of Ottawa West-Nepean.